(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a National Highway from Basti Siddharth Nagar in Uttar Pradesh which is adjacent to Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Gautam Buddha which is visited by thousands of pilgrims form Japan, China and Sri Lanka ever Year;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed;

(c) if no, whether the Government propose to provide funds under the Central Road Fund Scheme to widen and develop the road from Bansi to Basti Siddharth Nagar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT: (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*] Textile

Increase in Prices of Cotton Yarn

*725. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
DR. G.L.KANAUJIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented increase in prices of cotton yarn during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control prices of cotton yarn and to bring the same to pre-March 1991 level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT):(a) Yes, Sir. The prices of all counts of cotton yarn have gone up during the last few months.

(b) The increase in the prices of hank yarn during the period March-August, 1991 varies from about 6% to 17% and in the case of cone yarn varies from about 15% to about 44%. The main reasons for increase in the prices of cotton yarn has been the rise in prices of raw cotton due to the decline in its production caused by unfavourable weather conditions and severe pest attack in certain cotton growing areas of the country. There were also increases in the cost of other inputs like power, wages and bank credit.

(c) Steps taken by Government to check the rise in the prices of cotton yarn include adoption of a cautious policy on export of cotton land cotton yarn, directions to mills of NTC to re-orient their production to increase the production of yarn of counts below 40s, stepping up of supply of yarn to handloom weavers by National Handloom Development Corporation, de-hoarding operations to be undertaken by the mechanery of Textile Commissioner, activating of yarn prices fixation Committees by State Governments and streamlining of distribution machinism by state Agencies.

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Establishment of a bench of a Supreme Court in South

*726. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand to establish a bench of Supreme Court in the South; and